



The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~ 3 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
3 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

Prague and the rest of the country stayed relatively calm over the weekend. There have been no more demonstrations. There has also been no significant change in the deployment of Soviet and Warsaw Pact forces throughout the country.

2. Soviet Union

There were unconfirmed press reports yesterday of another meeting of the Soviet central committee. Communist sources said the meeting was called to deal with the hostile world reaction to the intervention in Czechoslovakia; they claimed that the Soviets were considering a conciliatory gesture.

Embassy Moscow notes that Soviet press commentary on Czechoslovakia over the weekend seemed to be taking some of the pressure off by giving greater emphasis to signs that the situation there is returning to normal. Initial Soviet commentary on the Czechoslovak central committee meeting was straightforward and gave no hint of displeasure over the personnel changes in the party hierarchy.

3. Rumania

The situation is quiet.

[redacted] have not been able to find any evidence of troop concentrations near the Rumanian border. Military activity in northeast Bulgaria is limited to a training exercise. The Rumanians, with their most recent careful commentary on Czechoslovakia, seem to be trying to avoid provoking the Soviets.

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4. Guatemala

Security forces are still on alert, but there has been no progress in the search for Ambassador Mein's killers. The US Embassy is taking special precautions

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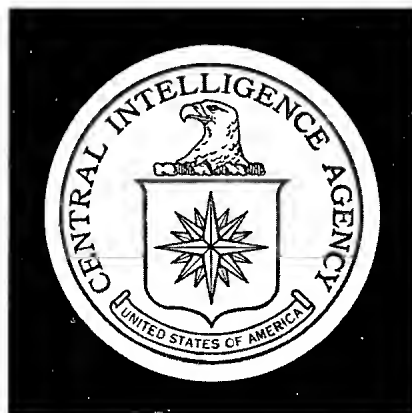
5. Mexico

President Diaz Ordaz delivered his state of the union address to the legislature on Sunday without incident. The threatened student disorders did not materialize. Diaz Ordaz announced minor concessions to the students but emphasized his intention to maintain peace and order.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Anniversary Celebration: The Hanoi leadership turned out in full force to celebrate their 23rd anniversary yesterday. The broadcasts made a special point of describing Ho Chi Minh's "good health" as he appeared on the speaker's platform. All in-country members of the Politburo appeared with him--only Le Duc Tho (who is in Paris), Pham Hung (who is probably in South Vietnam), and Hoang Van Hoan (who may have returned to China) were missing.

Although only brief summaries of the major speeches are available, the occasion does not seem to have been used to restate any major policy issues. Premier Pham Van Dong gave the major address--as is usual on such occasions--and his emphasis appeared to be on assuring the people that they were on the road to final victory, but that some hard fighting probably lay ahead.

* * *

China Damns Soviets on North Vietnam Anniversary: Peking used the 23rd anniversary of the founding of North Vietnam to castigate the Soviet Union and to reiterate its charge that Moscow is the "number one accomplice of US imperialism in its war of aggression against Vietnam." [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Vietnamese were warned that the Paris talks were a "hoax" and that Moscow was Washington's accomplice in perpetuating this hoax on the "heroic Vietnamese people."

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The celebration in Peking was attended by Foreign Minister Chen Yi and a number of other party and government officials. Peking's spokesman was Wu Te, Vice Chairman of the Peking Municipal Revolutionary Committee. He added to the usual charges against Moscow by attacking Russia's "armed aggression against Czechoslovakia"--a clear warning to Hanoi that Peking is far

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from happy with North Vietnam's unqualified support of Moscow during the Czech confrontation.

* * *

Soviets Pledge Unqualified Support: In marked contrast to Peking's lecturing, the Soviet leaders in their message of greeting on the occasion of the anniversary gave Hanoi a ringing endorsement of its efforts in the Paris peace talks and pointedly told the North Vietnamese they could always count on the Soviets "remaining on their side, fulfilling their international duty" and providing continuing military and economic assistance whichever course the Hanoi leadership pursued.

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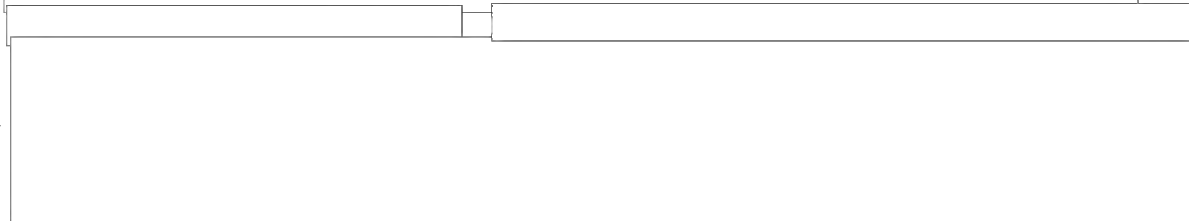
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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